

offer mental health coverage or cover specific mental health services, it excludes parity for substance abuse and out-of-network services, and businesses with less than 50 employees are exempt. Flexibility is not impaired.

The chorus of naysayers chants that this legislation would significantly raise health benefit costs and make these benefits too expensive for employers to offer. Again, examination of the facts refutes their contention. A recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projection estimated that passage of this bill would increase group health plan premiums by an average of 0.9 percent. Similarly, a PricewaterhouseCoopers analysis of the bill projected a 1 percent increase in costs or an average of \$1.32 per month per plan enrollee. These projections are consistent with the actual findings in states that already provide for full mental health parity by law and the experience of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program that instituted parity for both mental health and substance abuse benefits in 2001. This approximate 1 percent increase is a small price to pay to increase mental health access and end discriminatory mental health insurance coverage practices. Furthermore, this increase in costs does not take into account the experience of several large employers (e.g. Delta Airlines) that found that increased access to mental health benefits led to decreases in other areas of health care costs and decreased employee absence.

In exasperation, the naysayers then chant that this bill covers an excessively broad range of psychiatric conditions which will open the door to the dubious complaints of the "worried well" and lead to over utilization and excessive cost. These contentions deny the reality that the bill requires parity only for those services that are "medically necessary" which is defined by the plan or issuer's criteria. In fact, symptoms that do not cause "clinically significant impairment or distress" will not be covered.

Thus, in retrospect, the concerns of this chorus are not supported by the data. Then, what can be the origin of this resistance to mental health parity?

A thousand years ago, people displaying symptoms of mental illness were stoned or burned at the stakes. The stigma attached to the mentally ill continues today in a more latent, but no less malicious form. It manifests itself by the employer who finds reasons not to hire or the apartment owner who is less likely to lease to the mentally ill. And, I believe it is manifesting itself in this excessive opposition to the efforts of the mentally ill to obtain treatment.

It is time to overcome the stigma associated with mental illness and put an end to this form of discrimination. It is time for the Administration to take an active role in supporting this bill that facilitates access to mental health services for those in need. It is time for Congress to enact the Paul D. Wellstone Mental Health Parity Act. I am pleased to join with my colleagues to again support this long overdue improvement in our health care system. I urge its speedy passage.

THE RENEWABLE FUEL EQUITY ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague from Colorado, MARK UDALL, I am reintroducing the Renewable Fuel Equity Act of 2003. The energy crises that struck California in 2001 and resonated across the country taught us many lessons—one of which is the need for our country to expand and diversify the production of energy from renewable resources.

Solar, wind, hydro power, biomass, and geothermal energy are each potentially enormous energy resources and every state has renewable resource potential. Unfortunately, existing renewable energy resources are not spread uniformly across the country. The current tax law creates regional and technological inequities by failing to provide uniform benefits for all renewable energy resources. For example, the Section 45 production tax credit, enacted in 1992, has spurred significant new investment, but it only applies to wind power facilities. Since its inception, the production tax credit has added thousands of megawatts of wind power to our electricity grid. Imagine the impact on our communities if the production tax credit was available to all renewable energy technology.

Clean power production provides greater reliability for our electricity system while promoting cleaner air and water. In addition, according to the Energy Information Agency, expanding renewable power production helps reduce the risk of future price increases for electricity.

Today, renewable power sources provide consumers reliable power that is cost-effective over the long run. Unfortunately, their high, initial capital costs discourages investment in renewables. Providing tax incentives for new renewable power production can make the difference.

The federal production tax credit has demonstrated its effectiveness in spurring investment in new wind power generation. The Renewable Fuel Equity Act would expand this proven incentive to all of the renewable energy resources—wind, biomass, incremental hydro power, solar and geothermal.

For smaller power systems, particularly those not connected to the grid, the production tax credit is not an effective stimulus. Under current law, it does not apply to off-grid systems, and it is too complex for small businesses to use. To address this situation, our bill would make a 20 percent investment tax credit available to all small renewable technologies as an alternative.

Investment in new renewable power is good for the economy and the environment, and providing these tax incentives will spur new investment without cutting Treasury revenues. Studies by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others indicate that expanding tax incentives for new renewable power systems are likely to have negligible net costs for the Treasury. This is because renewable power plants are so capital intensive they already pay significantly higher federal income taxes on the power produced.

As the 108th Congress begins the debate over a national energy policy, I believe pro-

duction and investment tax credits for renewable fuel sources are an important component of any comprehensive policy. Exploiting our renewable fuels is one of our safest, cleanest and most effective ways of ensuring our nation's energy independence. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting renewable fuel development by cosponsoring this important bill.

RECOGNIZING LACEY McELROY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lacey McElroy, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1619, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1) Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3) earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4) designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her gold award project, Lacey organized an infant and child book drive for early reading programs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lacey McElroy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the gold award.

TRIBUTE TO OPRAH WINFREY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Oprah Winfrey. Ms. Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi in 1954. Due to her father being in the service, Ms. Winfrey was raised by her grandmother.

Ms. Winfrey began her public career while in college, where she became a co-anchor. In the years of 1977–1984 Ms. Winfrey was the co-host of “Baltimore is Talking”. In 1984, she took over ABC’s “AM Chicago” where her ratings surpassed the top performer Phil Donahue. Ms. Winfrey then became the performer of her own show where she has become a role model for many. The Oprah Winfrey Show is different from all others because it continues to reinvent itself and continues to make a difference in people’s lives. In 1986 the show became syndicated.

Ms. Winfrey later founded Harpo which is her own production company. Her acclaimed performance in the *Color Purple* in 1985 earned Ms. Winfrey an Academy Award nomination. Ms. Winfrey continues to make endeavors that she believes in.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003”

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Black History Month, I rise today to introduce the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, a bill directing the National Park Service (NPS) to take ownership, restore and manage the historic Shaw home of Carter G. Woodson, “the father of Black History.” The bill would authorize the NPS to “preserve, protect and interpret for the benefit, education and inspiration of present and future generations,” the home where Woodson lived from 1915 to 1950. This legislation also authorizes the NPS to rehabilitate adjacent properties on either side of the home to facilitate tourism. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which Woodson founded, also would be housed on the site, as it was originally. My good friend Senator MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA) will be the sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

Congress passed my bill, H.R. 3201, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act, in 2000, to begin the process of making the property at 1538 Ninth Street, NW a national historic site within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. A NPS study, as mandated by the legislation, is required before the NPS can take control of property. The study determined that the Woodson Home is suitable and feasible for designation as a unit of the park system following the transfer of title from its current owner, the ASALH. The bill I introduce today is necessary in order for the NPS to receive the appropriation for extensive renovation of the site.

I am particularly pleased by the proposed rehabilitation of the entire block that is linked to the legislation I introduce today to rehabilitate the Woodson home. The NPS would work with Shiloh Community Development Corporation, established by Shiloh Baptist Church, which owns almost all of the property on the block of the Woodson home. The Shiloh Corporation would convert the block of homes to senior independent living housing, maintaining the historic facade of the row houses.

As Black History Month comes to a close, we open a new chapter in the story of an educator who is most responsible for the annual recognition of the contributions of black Americans in the nation’s history and culture. I have introduced this legislation to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished black American and founder of the Association of Negro Life and History, by authorizing the NPS to maintain in perpetuity his home at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., here in the District of Columbia, as a National Historic Site under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The significance of this home was recognized in 1976, when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. I introduce this bill today to assure that the nation’s pride and purpose in celebrating Black History Month are not marred by neglect of the home of the founder of the commemoration and of the study of black history itself.

Dr. Woodson was a distinguished American historian who established African-American history as a discipline and spent a lifetime uncovering the contributions of African-Americans to our nation’s history. He founded and performed his work through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which has since been renamed the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). Among its enduring accomplishments, ASNLH, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, instituted Negro History Week in 1926, to be observed in February during the week of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today, of course, Negro History Week, which was mostly celebrated in segregated schools, like my own here in the District when I was a child, and in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has gained support and participation throughout the country among people of all backgrounds as Black History Month.

Dr. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second African-American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. Woodson’s personal educational achievement was extraordinary in itself, especially for a man who had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where Woodson was born in 1875. As a result, Dr. Woodson did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old, after he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where he received his high school diploma two years later. He then entered Berea College in Kentucky, where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1897. Woodson continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees, and then he got his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

During much of Dr. Woodson’s life, there was widespread ignorance and very little information concerning African-American life and history. With his extensive studies, Woodson almost single-handedly established African-American historiography. Dr. Woodson’s research, literally uncovering black history, helped to educate the American public about the contributions of African-Americans to the nation’s history and culture. Through painstaking scholarship and historical research, his work helped reduce the stereotypes captured in pervasively negative portrayals of black people that have marred our history as a nation. To remedy these stereotypes, Dr. Wood-

son in 1915 founded ASNLH. Through ASNLH, Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to educating the American public about the contributions of black Americans to the nation’s history and culture. This work in bringing history to bear where prejudice and racism had held sway has played an indispensable role in reducing prejudice and making the need for civil rights remedies clear.

To assure publication, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, ASNLH in 1920 also founded the Associated Publishers, Inc. for the publication of research on African-American history. Dr. Woodson published his seminal work, *The Negro in Our History* (1922), and many others under Associated Publishers, and the publishing company provided an outlet for scholarly works by numerous other black scholars. ASNLH also circulated two periodicals: the *Negro History Bulletin*, designed for mass consumption, and the *Journal of Negro History*, which was primarily directed to the academic community.

Dr. Woodson directed ASNLH’s operations out of his home at 1538 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC in the historic Shaw neighborhood. From there, he trained researchers and staff and managed the organization’s budget and fundraising efforts, while at the same time pursuing his own extraordinary discoveries in African-American history. The three-story Victorian style house, built in 1890, served as the headquarters of ASNLH into the early 70’s, well after Dr. Woodson’s death in 1950. In 1976, the house was designated as a National Historic Landmark. However, it has been unoccupied since the early 80’s, and today, it stands boarded up and sorely in need of renovation. The walls inside the house are crumbling, there is termite infestation, water seeps through the roof during heavy rainstorms, and the house also constitutes a fire hazard jeopardizing adjacent buildings. This house that is a priceless American treasure must not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, passage of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, represents a concrete way for the House to commemorate Black History Month, by preserving the home and legacy of its founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month. As the month draws to a close, I urge my colleagues to join me as we commemorate and honor the achievements of African-Americans throughout our nation’s history.

Black history month, a tradition for seven decades, is celebrated each February in cities and towns across the United States. During this time, we honor and celebrate the contributions African-Americans have made to music, the arts, and academics and we recall the many important milestones in black history. In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson recognized the need for our country to gain a more complete and informed understanding of African